

REMARKS

The applicant notes the submission filed on May 10, 2004 has been entered. The Examiner rejects claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kusunoki*, claims 21, 22, 23, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kusunoki*, claims 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kusunoki* in view of *Wenaas*, and claims 15, 18, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kusunoki* in view of *Meinel*.

Note that the subject application was previously allowed and then the applicant filed an IDS via a continuation application. The applicant appreciates the Examiner's review of the art cited and the subject application.

The applicant claims and discloses an information signal isolator which, for example, prevents extraneous transient signals from being processed as status or control information by a microcontroller which outputs or receives the signals to or from another microcontroller or other circuit or device. Two passive components such as coils or capacitor plates are isolated from each other via an isolation layer. A driver circuit receives the input signal and delivers it to one passive component whereupon it is coupled to the other passive component to achieve galvanic isolation.

Kusunoki simply has nothing to do with galvanic isolation as a means to provide signal isolation and indeed *Kusunoki* has nothing to do with signal isolation at all. As such, an engineer designing signal isolators would not look to *Kusunoki* for any ideas.

Instead, *Kusunoki* relates to the idea of increasing the mutual inductance in a transformer and an amplifier. As such, *Kusunoki's* coils are not isolated by an isolation

layer. Instead, part of secondary coil 12A, Figs. 6A-6B is on substrate 11 but part of it is also on insulative layer 13 as well. The same is true of primary coil 12B: part of it is on insulative layer 13 but part of it is also on substrate 11. See *Kusunoki*, Col. 5, lines 28-64. This is due to through holes 16, 17, 20, and 21, Fig. 6A. Moreover, coils 12A and 12B are connected to each other and to the same common ground. See Col. 7, lines 49-65 and Fig. 9.

Such a transformer structure simply cannot provide galvanic signal isolation. As *Kusunoki* clearly discloses, the disclosed transformer purportedly has a larger mutual inductance but nothing in *Kusunoki* teaches or suggests signal isolation achieved between two isolated passive components wherein in an analog or digital signal is galvanically isolated between a driver circuit and a receiver circuit as shown in Fig. 10 of the applicants' application.

Thus, claims 14 and 16 are clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in light of *Kusunoki* since the Examiner's conclusion that *Kusunoki* inherently discloses an information signal isolator is factually erroneous.

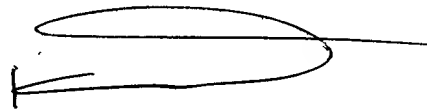
The same analysis applies with the respect to the rejection of the remaining claims wherein *Kusunoki* is used as the primary reference.

In summary, because *Kusunoki* is wholly unrelated to galvanic information signal isolation and instead relates to increasing the mutual inductance of a transformer, the structure of *Kusunoki*'s transformer is necessarily different from the applicants' claimed passive components (coil or capacitor plates) and, moreover, *Kusunoki*'s coils are electrically connected and share the same common ground in contrast to the applicants' claimed isolated passive components in combination with the claimed input and driver circuit.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kirk Teska', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Teska
Reg. No. 36,291